

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for managing an investment account for a customer associated with a sponsoring organization comprising the steps of:

interacting with the customer over a computer network to create a portfolio of investments that satisfy a plurality of restrictions on investment activity of the customer while meeting pre-defined investment needs of the customer;

establishing an aggregate portfolio of investments from the customer and from a plurality of other customers of the sponsoring organization, wherein said aggregating includes combining orders for investments from the customer and the plurality of other customers into a single order for each investment, including combining at least one economically unviable order for an investment, [;] and wherein said economically unviable trading order includes at least one trading order for a fractional share of one investment;

transmitting a portfolio of desired investments over the computer network for execution;  
and

maintaining in a separate account up to one single share of each investment in which there is at least one trading order for a fractional share of said each investment.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for managing a plurality of investment accounts, each of which is associated with a third party user, comprising the steps of:

receiving data from the user regarding the plurality of investment accounts, the data defining the amount and types of investments to be included in each investment account;

aggregating the plurality of investment accounts into a single portfolio of investments for the user;

establishing an aggregate portfolio of investments from the third party user and from a plurality of other users, wherein said establishing an aggregate portfolio includes combining orders for investments from the third party user and the plurality of other users into a single order for each investment, including combining at least one economically unviable order for an investment<sub>1</sub>[:]; and wherein said economically unviable trading order includes at least one trading order for a fractional share of one investment;

analyzing the single portfolio to determine a risk/reward characteristic of the single portfolio; and

maintaining in a separate account up to one single share of each investment in which there is at least one trading order for a fractional share of said each investment.

3. (Currently Amended) A method for creating a plurality of separate investment accounts while managing the plurality of separate investment accounts as a single investment portfolio, comprising the steps of:

establishing a separate file for each of the plurality of separate investment accounts;

establishing an aggregate portfolio of investments from the single investment portfolio and from a plurality of other customers, wherein said establishing an aggregate portfolio includes combining orders for investments from the investment accounts into a single order for each investment, including combining at least one economically unviable order for an investment<sub>1</sub>[:]; and wherein said economically unviable trading order includes at least one trading order for a fractional share of one investment;

analyzing the plurality of separate investment accounts as if the plurality of separate investment accounts were a single investment portfolio, the analysis including at least one of: a risk level analysis, a diversification analysis, a concentration analysis and a sector exposure analysis for the single portfolio; and

maintaining in a separate account up to one single share of each investment in which there is at least one trading order for a fractional share of said each investment.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for managing an investment account of a plurality of customers associated with a sponsoring organization, comprising the steps of:

establishing a plurality of restrictions on the investment activity of the plurality of customers associated with the sponsoring organization;

interacting with a first customer over a computer network to identify a portfolio of investments that satisfy the plurality of defined restrictions while meeting customer defined investment needs of the first customer;

establishing an aggregate portfolio of investments from the first customer and from a plurality of other customers, wherein said establishing an aggregate portfolio includes combining orders for investments from the first customer and the plurality of other customers into a single order for each investment, including combining at least one economically unviable order for an investment, [;] and wherein said economically unviable trading order includes at least one trading order for a fractional share of one investment;

transmitting a plurality of trade requests over a computer network identifying a plurality of investments in the aggregate portfolio; and

maintaining in a separate account up to one single share of each investment in which  
there is at least one trading order for a fractional share of said each investment.

5-20. (Canceled)